

Tax-Exempt Retirement Subject of Proposition 6

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — For the next several issues, this column will deal with propositions to be voted on by the people at the Nov. 5 general election.

Proposition 6 deals with insurance premiums on the retirement program in California's institutions of higher education.

The measure is more of a corrective nature than one dealing with a new policy, or for that matter, with revenues of the state.

Under present practices, colleges and universities, both public and private, are not subject to the premium tax on insurance for retirement purposes.

However, a recent decision from the Supreme Court would subject to taxation the premiums paid into the retirement programs of independent colleges and universities, while the same programs for the same type of institutions supported by public funds would escape such a tax.

The proposed amendment

merely authorizes the state legislature to continue tax relief on all retirement programs coming under the state's public and private universities, as well as other similarly situated schools.

The amendment therefore would not result in any reduction of revenue to California, as such retirement programs have not been subject to taxation in the past, and there seems to be no valid reason why the private institutions should be required to shoulder this ad-

ditional burden in the future.

The independent colleges and universities now save California taxpayers millions of dollars annually by educating some 25 per cent of the students enrolled in higher education. This saving to California taxpayers is estimated at approximately \$150 million annually.

As in the case of tax supported schools, colleges and the university, the privately financed institutions are always hard up for money. Thus forcing an unfair ad-

vantage for the public institutions would be highly discriminatory.

The amendment has bipartisan support. Two Democratic leaders, Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh of Inglewood and Assemblyman Bob Moretti, of North Hollywood, sponsor the measure along with Assemblyman Robert T. Monagan of Tracy, Republican leader of the house. These three have written the ballot arguments on behalf of the measure.

In addition, the proposi-

tion went through the legislature during the last session without a dissenting vote, which is clear enough indication there is no opposition among the elected representatives of the people.

There is, however, a dissenting argument in the annual ballot pamphlets, written by a Fred E. Huntley of Berkeley.

The argument against the proposition, however, deals with almost everything except the issue a stake. Hunt-

ley proposes to "punish" the college and universities by defeating the amendment. Claiming the University of California in particular "has become a privileged sanctuary for many types of political agitation."

The amendment, if defeated, would give the university's retirement program a distinct advantage over private colleges and universities, as its program is in no way the policies of the university are not at stake in this proposition.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1968

A Continuing Dream

With a beat-up hand fed press, a couple cases of type, some newsprint, and a spare "boiled" shirt in his satchel, the pioneer editor hitched a team to his spring wagon and followed the sun. With Horace Greeley's "Go West, young man" ringing in his ears, the early newspaperman followed the expanding nation with his portable newspaper. Where the rails ended and a tent city was pitched, he was there, chronicling the happenings at "rail's end."

A new mining strike in the hills meant another move to follow the shifting, unsettled people, looking for the utopia that HAD to be there somewhere. In a tent, by lantern light and using lampblack and oil for ink, the pioneer editor turned out the news of

This editorial, written by Editor Verle L. Rademacher for the Meagher (Mont.) News, is one of two first-place winners in the National Newspaper Week editorial writing contest. It is here published as an appropriate comment on newspapers and newspapermen during this annual observance of National Newspaper Week.

the growing nation. Among the isolated homesteaders, miners, railroaders and ranchers, the newspapers were read and re-read, each gleaning every last bit of news possible from the printed words, before passing the tattered pages on to his neighbor.

With the permanence that follows rapid expansion, the tramp editors settled in communities that had the promise of the "utopia" that they had been searching for. A false-fronted frame building supplanted the tent and wagon of the wandering newspaperman. With "roots" in a community, the newspaperman began the arduous task of building the communities that they settled in. With each

new civic betterment project, the local newspaperman was there—reporting, editorializing and helping in any way possible. Community pride and progress were bannered in bold headlines for all the world to see. Apathy was trampled underfoot as the newspaperman pushed, cajoled, exhorted or shamed his readers into action.

Thus our young nation was molded by the unceasing efforts of its newspapermen and women. Black type upon white paper told of progress and of failure, of life and of death, hopes and dreams—everyday life.

Just as in days of long ago, the newspaper still is the vital community link with the outside world. News is gathered from the printed page at the convenience of the reader and can be read and re-read to obtain the true meaning behind any article of importance. Community events are covered with a depth impossible in any other medium. Advertising is not an intrusion, but is a part of the whole newspaper. Newspapers touch the daily life of all of us.

Today's newspapermen are not unlike those of yesteryear. Community pride and progress are still the bywords that many live by. Unselfishly devoting himself to his community, today's newspaperman is a vital, key man in the community. His advice and counsel are sought on myriad programs. Many times he is asked to "sell" ideas for progress. Hours of long, hard work are spent for his fellow man and community without even a "thank you."

But, deep down, today's newspapers and today's newspapermen are following the paths laid down by pioneers in the field and would instantly bristle at the suggestion that anything less than "all out" in their endeavors would be acceptable.

You see . . . they, too, have a dream!

WILLIAM HOGAN

Arthur Hoppe Comes Up With All the Answers

The cast of characters is familiar. Homer T. Pettibone; Sir Ronald of Holyrod; the Kindly Old Philosopher; a mythical President who visits a mythical Alliance for Progress republic somewhere south of Texas. There's General Hoo Dat Don Dar, benevolent leader of an unlikely nations called West Vhtng (and another general, Hoos on Phirst). These and other imps, hobgoblins and elfinfolk are the creations of Arthur Hoppe, an American Jonathan Swift. They have become as familiar to a large public, and as endearing, as the denizens of Charles M. Schultz's "Peanuts."

They turn up in what a reckless reviewer (and colleague) might call this generation's "Gulliver's Travels," a winnowing of the best, or most pertinent, or wittiest, or most representative Hoppe comments from some 1,500 he has delivered over the past five years. The

book's perfect Title, "The Perfect Solution to Absolutely Everything."

For his report on the League for Total Birth Control, for example, which will not only solve our problems, but will solve them in a single generation. But everyone will have his favorite Hoppe sequence — the Ban the Mom piece, maybe, when

Browsing Through the World of Books

the Total Birth Control people hold their annual Mother's Day protest march and effigy burning. Or again, that Brotherhood Week down in West Vhtng when a Christian family moves into an all-Buddhist neighborhood and two Buddhist boys attend a Christian school without being spat upon. Or when victory in that mythical jungle war is

just around the corner. Again.

Hoppe knows that all those emperors are naked as jaybirds, and says so with wit and intelligence. These are all important entries in his very own "History of the World, 1950-1999." And the curious thing is that they can be important notes to any real history of the period which one day might be written. For Hoppe's blithe spirit registers a civilized dissent of today's widely accepted Establishment mores, political and military moonshine and other absurdities which mark this particular Lilliput we have come to inhabit.

Some people, thank God, have not come to inhabit it willingly. In some measure Hoppe is to be thanked for that. In speaking out against some of the worst offenses committed in a grotesque Fantasyland, he makes one laugh, think and once in a while dare to hope.

Domestic Politics Is So Much More Fun

HERB CAEN SAYS:

College Ends an Old Poker Game

One of the oldest established non-floating poker games in town — in the student's lounge at Hasting Law College—is no more, Associate Dean Joe Munster having laid down de law. Games henceforth "must be limited to bridge, cribbage, hearts and games of that character." Old Maid, anyone? . . . Star Claire Trevor is hooked on scrambled eggs and truffles. Three nights in a row at Ernie's . . . Now the word's around that the La Leche League, that group dedicated to breast-feeding, might stage a feed-in outside the Franciscan Restaurant, where a young mother was asked to leave for nursing her baby at a table.

Notes and Quotes: Hair transplants being the newest status symbol for the middleaging male, we are delighted to note that Chuck Clegg's is coming along fine, as is Jeweler Sid Mobell's. Also Frank Sinatra's . . . As for Joey Bishop's, his is plain ridiculous . . . Harold Stassen favors a toupee . . . Shirley Lewis Harris has a new boy friend, Atty. Socrates Mamos (6' 3", 230 lbs.), which is an item only because she refers to him as her "Jolly Greek Giant."

Add Infinitems: Jim Hickey is depressed after seeing on the marquee of the Sainte Claire in San Jose: "Speaker: Dr. Irene Hickman, Expert on Taxation and Reincarnation." It's true, Jim. There ARE taxes after death.

Workers at the big International Harvester plant in San Leandro were appropriately mystified one day last week to find the food-dispensing machine sealed and taped with this notice: "Do Not Remove — Small Animal Inside!" Somehow, a ringtailed cat, a member of the raccoon family, had worked its way into the machine. However, bloated on peanut butter and cheese crackers, it was easily captured by the Alameda County Animal Control people and is now on a diet.

At the weekly American Conservatory Theater seminar at the Kuo Wah, Actress Pat Falkenhaim and Actor Robert Geringer were asked how long they've been married. "Well," deadpanned Geringer, "we've played together for 22 years and we've been married for 19." Next question. . . Vacation notes: We are indebted to Big Contractor Bob Rothschild (Rothschild-Raffin) for the information that Ford's Cafe, near the Oregon fishing resort of Camp Sherman, is run by Mrs. Herrington, Mrs. Makrill and Mrs. Trout's sister, Mrs. Angler . . . And KNBR's Del Boubel is back from England, where he and his wife had an excellent time in the village of Little Peaover, Upper Snodbury and North Piddling. They tried and failed to find Big Peaover, Lower Snodbury and South Piddling. Don't you just love English countryside hysterics?

Togetherness: William A. Jennings, the Burlingame aviation lawyer, is back from an Airlines Stewardesses Safety Conference in Seattle, where a United stewardess told about an experience on a flight out of San Francisco. At one point it suddenly dawned on her that one of the "blue rooms" (stewardese for lavatories) had been occupied for about 45 minutes — so, fearing a passenger was ill, she rapped on the door and called out: "Everything all right in there?" The startling reply: "We'll be out in a minute." Shortly thereafter, a bearded hippie and his Flower Child girlfriend emerged, bringing to life all those old jokes about flying United.

Today's corporate image: Jo Ann Hendricks, secty. to Tycoon Prentiss Cobb Hale, dialed Los Angeles information (pardon, "Directory Assistance") and asked for the numbers of the four major airlines there. After giving three numbers, the Voice With the Smile said frostily: "I am only allowed to give three numbers. You must re-dial for the fourth number." Even "Pretty please?" doesn't help.

My new word is "mynorca." That's acronym spelled backwards, and applies to people who think up a striking set of letters—ZIP, MAPS, CALM, VISTA, etc.—and then make up the words to fit them.



ROYCE BRIER

Hard Thinking Needed To Solve Rail Dilemma

Interstate Commerce Commission submitted to the Congress a report dealing with passenger train cancellations in the United States in recent years.

This is one of the foremost economic problems of our time, and no solution even semi-permanent has been found for it. Some experts have recently been predicting disappearance of the trains for people from the American scene in the next ten years.

The problem is three-pronged—short-run or commuter, medium and long-run, and is inseparable from freight service, which for decades has provided the bulk of railroad revenue. All railroads insist they are losing money on passenger trains. They cancel them when they can, and as fast as they can, in applications to ICC or State commissions regulating intrastate traffic.

Bitter argument involves the whole phenomenon. The

carriers cite fatal loss of travel patronage to airplanes, buses and private automobiles, and lack of patronage is obvious enough. But opponents of the carriers say much of this is due to increasingly curtailed service, and the curtailed

Opinions on Affairs of the World

service is also obvious enough. A few railroads bravely say they want to retain passenger service; most of them frankly say they want out.

The federal government has been drifting with this deepening problem for a decade. It has made no notable move to solve it, or to learn if it can be solved.

The ICC has been under some fire of its own for piecemeal solutions, line by line. Now it is asking Con-

gress for some kind of survey. In its presentation it suggests a determination if a national railway passenger service is feasible.

The implication is that this would separate passenger and freight service, and presumably the latter would be continued by the railroads. Whether this would be workable — a government service and a private service utilizing the same facilities, in some cases interchangeable equipment — is not documented. In any case, it would be a proof-of-the-pudding proposition.

Much of the public's view of the passenger train crisis is nostalgic and emotional. Further, the nostalgia naturally affects the older generation, which knows what a good train is like. The average high school and college kid today has never ridden a good train.

But emotion and nostalgia can't solve this problem, nor will drifting solve it. Only hard thinking and doing will solve it, though the problem is too immense for facile thinking and amateur guessing. Yet it shouldn't be hard for a whole people, who initially built the railroads to subdue a continent.

Other Opinions

Crystal City (Mo.) Press-Times: One of the curious trends in our society is that developing in the employment field. Cities, states and private firms in various parts of the country report difficulty finding enough workers . . . The jobs for which workers are being sought are not all skilled; many of them are completely unskilled and often the wages offered are up to \$100 a week. Yet in many areas enough workers can't be found. It would seem logical to conclude that a certain percentage of the population is not eager for steady or hard work. That has probably always been true. Unemployment compensation systems and other forms of charity, greatly expanded in recent years, probably make certain the permanent existence of a percentage of "chronic" unemployed, who will never move out of that classification in our society.

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